

# # FIRST THINGS FIRST

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region



## 2015 IMPACT REPORT

# SCHOOL SUCCESS BEGINS AT BIRTH



## 90% OF A CHILD'S CRITICAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN,

so early experiences lay the foundation for success in school and in life. Arizonans created First Things First (FTF) to give more children the tools they need to arrive at school prepared to meet our state's high expectations. FTF provides resources and professional expertise then combines it with local decision-making to build on the work of community organizations impacting children and families. Local volunteers – parents, educators, business professionals, philanthropists, faith leaders and tribal representatives – decide how the funds will be used to best improve school readiness for children in their area.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS A STATE CAN MAKE

Research by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman showed that every \$1 invested in early childhood can yield returns between \$4 and \$16. Early literacy and its impact on school success is one of the best examples of the return on investment in early childhood. High quality early learning experiences, rich in language and literacy, reduce early learning gaps and ensure that children are ready to start reading when they enter kindergarten.



Gaps in children's vocabulary start to appear as early as  
**18 MONTHS.**



By the time children are  
**3 & 4 YEARS OLD,**  
their vocabulary, attention and  
general knowledge are predictors of  
**THIRD & FOURTH GRADE**  
reading comprehension.



**THIRD GRADE**  
reading ability is one of the  
best predictors of  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GRADUATION.**



As an early childhood system partner, First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies that: strengthen families in their role as their child's first teacher; improve the quality of early learning environments like preschool and child care, and expand access to those programs; and, promote prevention and early identification of health problems that could impact learning later on. By getting more Arizona kids ready for school, FTF helps put children on a path to academic success that benefits them, our communities and our state.

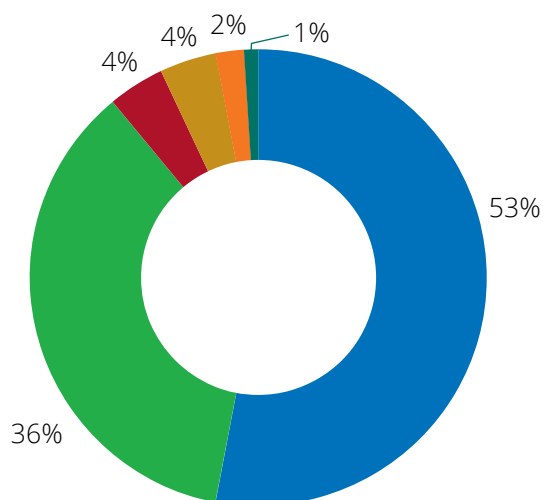
# \$1



INVESTED IN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD YIELDS UP TO A  
**\$16 RETURN**








# FISCAL YEAR 2015 IMPACT

## PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE FY2015 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



- Strengthening Families and Early Literacy \$129,803.35**  
 Families are a child's first and best teachers.
- Quality Preschool and Child Care \$86,817.96**  
 Children exposed to high quality early learning do better in school and are more likely to graduate.
- Parent and Community Awareness \$10,158.30**  
 We all have a shared responsibility to help children arrive at school prepared to succeed.
- Workforce Development and Training \$8,959.36**  
 A child's relationships with early caregivers impact whether her brain will develop in ways that promote learning.
- Preventive Health \$4,201.04**  
 Undetected or untreated health issues can impact learning later on.
- Research and Accountability \$3,681.90**  
 Measuring effectiveness and promoting continuous quality improvement rely on robust, accurate data.

**Total = \$243,621.91**

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**4** Children had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs participating in Quality First.
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**16** Preschoolers received scholarships to access high quality early learning through preschool.
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**5** Scholars received TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood Scholarships that provide support for early childhood educators.
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**135** Early childhood educators received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality teacher child interactions, which have been found to predict academic skills, language skills, and social skills among young children.
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**36** Families received voluntary in-home visits from trained providers to enhance their parenting skills and deal with specific challenges, including first-time parenting, parenting a child with special needs, or dealing with multiple births.
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**7** Parents and other caregivers completed a voluntary series of community-based classes on topics like parenting skills, brain development, early literacy and nutrition.
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**32** Screenings completed to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues in young kids and prevent learning challenges later on.

# INVESTING IN SCHOOL READINESS



## PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE LIBRARY LITERACY WORKSHOPS ENHANCE SKILLS AND TRIBAL WAY OF LIFE

Amalia A.M. Reyes always knows when the literacy workshops for parents are working. Reyes, who supervises the Dr. Fernando Escalante Community Library and Resource Center, sees parents return with their young children on days other than when the classes are offered.

"One family in particular, they come regularly to the library," Reyes said. "The mom and dad are both here with the daughter. She started out with our workshops, maybe in 2013."

Reyes watches as the preschooler makes an effort to find a book and the mom reinforces her search by asking questions. "Are you sure that's the book you want to read? Let's count how many books you have."

The First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region funds parenting education, which includes the 12 session literacy workshop program at the library. The activities are designed to increase the knowledge and skills of parents and families to promote positive parenting practices that result in enhanced child health and development.

In addition to the story time, Reyes and the literacy specialist always try to follow up the story time with an activity that relates to tribal heritage or the Pascua Yaqui way of life.

For example, after reading a story about making tortillas, they create tortillas out of felt, to place on a felt board.

"We'll show them how to expand the tortilla going back and forth as they clap their hands," Reyes said. "You have to stick to an evidence based curriculum, but at the same time, you have to make it an activity that parents can relate to, learn from and utilize things at home."

Andrea Romero, who worked as a literacy specialist at the library, said she hears from parents who would use the workshop skills at home.

"I think it has a great impact on the parents who come and bring their child. They get that one on one conversation and engagement with the child, along with us helping. A lot of times, parents don't like to talk or ask questions. But here, it's friendlier and inviting. If they do have a question, they feel safe asking it. No one is going to make them feel ashamed for not knowing."

## PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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## FUNDED PARTNERS - FY2015

Maricopa County Department of Public Health  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe  
Pima County Health Department  
Southwest Human Development

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
Valley of the Sun United Way

